

A 'review' as posted, 2023, in regard to
VERMILION'S (FAKE) "BROWN'S LAKE ROAD CEMETERY"

Subject: fake cemetery / fake history.
= Not only did the Brownhelm Historical Association create a fake cemetery, but they also created a fake history to accompany it. According to their “B.H.A.” website [2023]:
""In 1822, Henry’s daughter Charlotte passed away at just 21 years old. His friends, James & Shepard, offered up 1/2 acre each of their properties across the road as a public burial ground for Henry’s daughter.""
>> But in truth, prior to 1836, the only burials at this cemetery location were members of the two separate families who owned the two adjacent separate farms. However, Charlotte Brown Goodrich was originally interred elsewhere, nearby, but later re-interred into this cemetery after it became public. The same was true for members of the Hart family (including Bildad Belden*, who died on his way from CT to visit his dying daughter here -- as was documented by his nephew). The Hart family burials were originally on their own farm at the lakeside end of Sunnyside Road. In fact, Bildad Belden's headstone was even purchased after their re-interment into this cemetery(1840s); but, his age is wrong on that headstone, probably because his grandchildren had forgotten his correct age, by that time.
[*--- Belden was not authentically a Rev.War "Soldier". He, himself, stated in his pension application, that he "fought in no battles", but instead was merely extremely sick in a hospital during his entire enlistment-period.]
>>The B.H.A. version also says ""The western half acre, originally granted by Levi Shepard, was somehow incorporated into the sale of his property in 1855 to another local farmer.""
That is also false; that '1855' deed-transfer specifically “*excludes the graveyard*”. (The B.H.A. version even bizarrely states, ""Known burials occurred within the cemetery until at least the 1860s, even while the property was changing hands from farmer to farmer."" But obviously this was still legally a full one-acre cemetery in the 1860s --- and was not ""changing hands from farmer to farmer"" --- because **public** burials were still occurring here in the 1860s.)
{The fact that any later 'deeds' for the directly-adjacent properties had subsequently failed to mention the cemetery within those 'deeds', had no bearing whatsoever upon the “ownership” of the one-acre cemetery parcel, because the cemetery parcel ceased to be a portion of those adjacent properties, in 1836. And all evidence indicates that Col. Henry Brown continued to be this cemetery's owner; which has also been verified by experts in real-estate law.}
No legal issues occurred with the official boundaries of the full one-acre cemetery, itself, until the mid-20th-Century, when a later owner of the adjacent property falsely asserted that a portion of the cemetery had been "abandoned". However, there is apparently no precedent in Ohio law, for the official "abandonment" of HALF of a cemetery. Regardless, no government representative had officially declared any of it "abandoned", and no effort was made to relocate all of the burials into other cemeteries.
>> The B.H.A. version also asserted that a woman named Mary Konik observed headstones being bulldozed during the motel construction. Which is very easily disproved by the fact that Mary [Mulligan-Finley] did not reside anywhere near this community (and was not yet a "Konik") until several years after the "Holiday Inn motel", (not to be confused with the national chain), was constructed here. It was only after Mary [originally of Michigan] relocated to Amherst [from Carlisle Twp.?] and eventually began working in this motel's restaurant, when she married [in 1965] the son of the man who had already established[ca.1947] this "Holiday Inn motel", and she subsequently resided near this site.
Notwithstanding, that about a decade before the motel, every headstone on this future "motel side" had already all been uprooted and placed slightly elsewhere across [or upon] an easterly perimeter there, by a tenant farmer. {That is directly according to the grand-daughter of the prior owners -- Geo. and Mae Risden -- of that west-adjacent farm, at that time. That grand-daughter's mother was in-charge of that farm's rental, during that earlier decade.}
>> The B.H.A. version also credits Mary Konik with sounding the alarm about the adjoining farmer encroaching near the existing gravestones. But the “BHA” failed to mention that it was not Mary Konik who witnessed that activity, but instead it was actually frequent visitors to one of the adjacent apartments who scolded the farmer when they observed him unearth a hidden buried gravestone ("Henry Schroeder") with his bulldozer, at the edge of the overgrown wooded area here, (and they subsequently alerted Mary because her home was the closest one nearby). Without that intervention, the farmer might have continued to encroach fully into the gravestone area; and Mary would have known nothing about that incident, (unless, maybe Mary perhaps had a frequent habit of wandering through that thicket of vines, briars, and poison-ivy!??).
>>>That's the true account of how "B.H.A. saved this cemetery"*, (30 years after they had first discussed it at a tea-party), by ultimately, themselves, **disassociating gravestones from graves**, to aesthetically create a **tiny pristine** (fake) “**cemetery**”; and by contriving a new (fake) history to justify it.
So, let's all give the Brownhelm Historical(?) Association a resounding round of applause for "**saving**"* it.
And also, a standing-ovation to Mayor Forthover for personally authorizing them to "**restore**"* it. [*-B.H.A.'s wordings.]

There is more that can be added about this subject; however, at the moment, to most people (and apparently including the membership of the “B.H.A.”) this old graveyard is nothing more than “Dirt, Stones, and Old Bones” to be treated as personal fodder for their own entertainment, (etc.) --- instead of a **sanctified “Public Burialground”**.